



## Wild & Scenic Lower Delaware River Management Committee



Carol Hoffmann  
New Jersey Chair  
Chris Testa Vice-Chair

Nancy Janyszeski  
Pennsylvania Chair  
Mick Drustrup – Vice Chair



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### The Lower Delaware River Quarterly Meeting

The Quarterly Meeting of the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic was held at the Lower Mt. Bethel Environmental Welcome Center, Northampton County, Wednesday – October 7, 2009. The meeting was well attended by the Wild and Scenic membership committee and representatives of environmental groups interested in protecting the Delaware River and its tributaries.

John Mauser of the Martins-Jacoby Watershed Association was the host and gave a presentation on their steep slope and riparian buffer conservation projects. Robert Limbeck, Delaware River Basin Commission presented an update on the Point of Discharge water testing project. Over \$100,000 was funded by a grant from the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic through the National Park Service for this DRBC project.

Carol Hoffman, New Jersey Chair presented an update on the Milford Mill, newly designated by the EPA as a super fund site.

Pennsylvania Chair, Nancy Janyszeski made a motion to approve a \$25,000 grant to extend the baseline water testing project, already in place, to develop a fundamental water “signature” before any drilling begins in Nockamixon Township. The motion was unanimously approved.

It is the intent to commit \$25K to sample and analyze the ground water in the areas that may be associated with planned gas drilling in the Lower Delaware River, Wild and Scenic designated areas. This water characterization is to provide state, county, municipal and township authorities, as well as affected residences, a pre-drilling, status of their water, to compare with the water quality post drilling. The Wild and Scenic, Lower Delaware Management Committee (W&S) will manage this effort, funded through the National Park Service.

The need for the additional testing is documented in the latest incident where a 38-mile stretch of the Dunkard Creek in Western Pennsylvania is all but dead. Its 161 species of fish, mussels, salamanders, crayfish, and aquatic insects have been killed. <sup>[i]</sup> There is no pre-dilling documentation in the Dunkard Creek region. This testing, is cutting edge and will go a long way to putting us all on a solid footing in the event of an environmental mishap from gas drilling in Upper Bucks county.

The next meeting of the Lower Delaware River Wild and Scenic is Tuesday, November 2, 2009 and tentatively scheduled to be held at the Bridgeton Township Building, Bridgeton PA. Meeting schedules can be found on the website at: <http://lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org/>

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<sup>[i]</sup> <http://postgazette.com/pg/09263/999458-113.stm>